

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held virtually on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

PRESENT: Chair Joe Aulik, Vice Chair Ed Koslowski, Joan Brusky, Ken Corry, Louise Dahlke

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ed Koslowski at 4:37 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Ken Corry to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of February 24, 2021.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Louise Dahlke to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Invocation.

Ken Corry gave the invocation at this time.

5. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Joe Aulik informed there have not been any changes to the program in the last month that he is aware of.

6. Discussion Regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair.

There have not been any changes regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair since the last meeting. Louise Dahlke informed the Fair will be moving forward with everything they have done in the past. She let the Fair Board know that this group will need a tent and that she would like sides for the tent available nearby in case they are needed. If it is decided there needs to be a stage in the tent, Dahlke can make arrangements for that at a cost of \$140.00. The indoor display space that has been used in the past for Ed Koslowski's exhibit will also be available this year. Dahlke added that there will be new bathrooms at the Fairgrounds this year which will replace the previous facilities which were in rough shape and hard to keep clean.

Brusky commented that recent news regarding COVID-19 has been somewhat positive and President Biden has made encouraging comments that there is a possibility that small groups could gather by July 4, 2021. This gives her hope that the Veterans Appreciation Day event can take place this year.

Koslowski contacted the Monterey Trail Band and was informed that they would likely be able to perform for the event if desired.

7. Report from CVSO Joe Aulik.

Aulik informed his office remains very active and they are close to \$800,000 in retroactive pay. They have also started a new initiative with the tagline *skip the trip* which encourages people to call the office instead of coming in and to follow their benefits online. This saves the hassle of coming downtown and having to find a place to park. The initiative is working really well and people seem to like it. Aulik noted staff is always available to meet personally if someone wants that, but most find it easier to do their business over the phone and it also allows office staff to get more work done and get claims processed faster. He mentioned that although his office is open, overall the Northern Building is still pretty much locked down and he does not know when that will change.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Brusky, Corry, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Metoxen, Pierce, Polus).

-Brusky did not have anything to report other than how encouraged she is with the most-recent news regarding COVID vaccinations.

-Corry said he feels it is important for this subcommittee to do something in observance of Vietnam Veterans Day and suggested that at a minimum this group could put something in the newspaper honoring Vietnam veterans and welcoming them home. He will also be sharing something through social media. There are no events scheduled for Vietnam Veterans Day due to COVID and he feels it is important to put out a thank you for their service. Aulik will have his office staff investigate this and noted that the Vietnam Veterans of America usually have an event, but will not be doing so this year.

Koslowski suggested Aulik contact Channel 5 and speak with the person who does the Hometown Hero segments to see if something could be done through that.

-Dahlke did not have anything to report other than what she already reported regarding the Fair.

-Koslowski informed Snake is wondering when these subcommittee meetings will be held in person again. A discussion ensued and options for a hybrid meeting will be looked at.

9. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. Aulik informed the next meeting will be held on April 20, 2021.

10. Adjourn.

Motion made by Ken Corry, seconded by Joan Brusky to adjourn at 5:08 pm. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist